REMARKS

This is in response to the Official Action currently outstanding with respect to the above-identified application.

Claims 1-4 and 6-15 were present in this application as of the time of the issuance of the currently outstanding Official Action. By the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1, 14 and 15 have been amended so as to more clearly and definitely set forth the invention. Claims 16 and 17 have been added. A "**VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS**" is attached. Accordingly, upon the entry of the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1-4 and 6-17 will remain under active prosecution in this case.

More specifically, it is noted that in the currently outstanding Official Action, the Examiner has:

1. Acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 USC 119(a)-(d), and indicated that the required certified copies of the priority document have been received by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

2. Provided Applicants with a copy of a Notice of References Cited (Form PTO 892) and copies of each of the references listed therein.

3. Indicated that Applicants' previous arguments with respect to claims 1-4 and 6-13 have been considered, but are deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection stated in the currently outstanding Official Action.

4. Withdrawn his prior indication of the allowability of original Claims 5-10.

5. Rejected Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by the Szuki et al reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,923,013).

6. Rejected Claim 11 as being unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over the Suzuki et al reference in view of the Morikawa reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,960,247).

7. Rejected Claim 13 as being unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over the Suzuki et al reference in view of the Kusumoto reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,135).

8.. Rejected Claim 14 and 15 as being unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over the Suzuki et al reference in view of the Hamanaka et al reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,801,837).

Further comment in these Remarks regarding items 1-4 above is not considered to be necessary.

The dependent claims of this application, namely Claims 2-4, 6-13 and 15-17, are believed to be patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependency upon allowable independent claims 1 or 14. Accordingly, additional detailed discussion of the patentability of these dependent claims is not believed to be required in these Remarks.

With respect to independent Claims 1 and 14, Applicants respectfully submit that the Susuki et al reference taken either alone, or in combination with the Hamanaka et al reference, fails to disclose, teach or suggest the following features of the present invention as now specifically claimed:

(i) input completion information showing completion of an input of the image data, and input request information showing a request for transmitting the image data from the image processing means are managed in connection with the corresponding image data stored in the image data storage means (as specifically disclosed in the present specification at page 42, lines 12-25 and now specifically claimed); and

(ii) output completion information showing completion of an output of the image data which was processed by the image processing means, and output request information showing a request for outputting the image data from the image output means are managed in connection with the corresponding image data stored in the image data storing means (as specifically disclosed in the present specification at page 45, lines 2-7 and now specifically claimed).

More particularly, it will be understood that with the above feature (i), if the input of images is interrupted by trouble, for example, it is possible to perform the instructed image processing with respect to image data of images which previous to the trouble had been completely inputted; to recognize which image data has not been inputted; and to give an instruction to restart the input and image processing of remaining images. Hence, in the present invention, by managing input request information together with input completion information, the claimed device provides more accurate control measure capabilities than those disclosed, taught or suggested by the cited prior art (see, page 7, line 24 to page 8, line 7 of the present specification).

Also, it will be understood that with the above feature (ii), even in the case of trouble such as a jam in the image output section, a recovery in the output process can be made accurately while at he same time recalling how far the image processing has advanced. Hence, in the present invention, by managing output request information together with output completion information, the claimed device provides more accurate control measure capabilities than those disclosed, taught or suggested by the cited prior art (see, page 5, line 19 to page 6, line 8 of the present specification).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as now claimed is patentably distinct from the cited references, whether those references are considered alone or in combination with one another. The distinguishing features of the invention reside in input request information being managed together with input completion information, and in output request information being managed with output completion information.

For each and all of the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the claims of this application as they will stand upon the entry of the foregoing Amendment are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application and the allowance of Claims 1-4 and 6-17 in response to this communication, therefore, are respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that additional fees are not required in connection with the consideration of this response to the currently outstanding Official Action. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. **04-1105**, as necessary, for the correct payment of all fees which may be due in connection with the filing and consideration of this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO AMENDED CLAIMS

Additions shown underlined; Deletions shown in brackets.

1. (Twice Amended) An image processing device which comprises image data input means for inputting image data, image data storage means for storing the image data , image data confirmation means for confirming characteristics of the image data, [and] management table means for managing the characteristics of each image data confirmed by said image data confirmation means as management information of said image data, with reference to the corresponding image data stored in said image data storage means, and image processing means for performing image processing with respect to said image data,

wherein:

said management table means manages input request information indicative of a request for transmitting the image data from said image processing means, and input completion information indicative of the completion of an input of the image data, in connection with the corresponding image data stored in said image data storage means

[further comprising:

image processing means for performing image processing with respect to said image data; and

second image data storage means for storing an image data which is subjected to image processing performed by said image processing means,

said management table means having a post image processing data management section for managing the image data stored in said second image data storage means, in connection with the corresponding management information].

14. (Amended) An image processing device, comprising:

first image data storage means for storing first image data to be inputted;

image processing means for carrying out image processing with respect to the first image data;

second image data storage means for storing second image data obtained by performing image processing with respect to said first image data by said image processing means; and

management table means for managing input request information indicative of a request for transmitting the first image data from said image processing means, and input completion information [showing] indicative of the completion of an input of said first image data, in connection with the corresponding first image data stored in said first image data storage means, and for managing processing completion information [showing] indicative of the completion of the image processing with respect to said first image data by said image processing means, in connection with the corresponding second image data stored in said second image data storage means.

15. (Amended) The image processing device as set forth in Claim 14, comprising:

image output means for outputting the processed second image data from said second image data storing means,

wherein said management table means further manages output request information indicative of a request for outputting the second image data from said image output means, and output completion information [showing] indicative of the completion of an output of said second image data, in connection with the corresponding second image data stored in said second image data storage means.